

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1-70. (Canceled)

71. (New) A process for treating a diluted tailings component, comprising heated water, particulate mineral solids and residual bitumen and solvent, said component having been derived from bitumen froth by dilution and mixing of the bitumen froth with solvent and separation of the resulting diluted bitumen froth into a diluted bitumen component and said diluted tailings component, comprising:

subjecting the diluted tailings component to a solvent recovery separation to separately produce a recovered solvent component and a solvent recovered tailings component containing water and solids and residual bitumen and solvent; and

subjecting the solvent recovered tailings component to gravity separation to separately produce an overflow stream mainly comprising clarified heated water and an underflow stream mainly comprising solids and water.

72. (New) The process as set forth in claim 71 comprising:  
recycling at least part of the clarified heated water for re-use in the process.

73. (New) The process as set forth in claim 71, comprising:  
subjecting the solvent recovered tailings component to a combination of gravity separation and gas flotation to separately produce the overflow and underflow streams and a third stream comprising residual bitumen and residual solvent.

74. (New) The process as set forth in claim 71, wherein:

the diluted tailings component is subjected in series to separate first and second stages of solvent recovery separation so that each stage produces separate overflow and underflow streams of recovered solvent component and solvent recovered tailings component; and

a first part of the first stage underflow is pumped as feed to the second stage and a second part of the first stage underflow is pumped back to the first stage to agitate diluted tailings component undergoing separation in the first stage.

75. (New) The process as set forth in claim 74 wherein:

a first part of the second stage underflow is fed as feed to gravity separation and a second part of the second stage underflow is pumped back to the second stage to agitate diluted tailings component undergoing separation in the second stage.

76. (New) The process as set forth in claim 71, further comprising:

recycling at least part of the clarified heated water to solvent recovery separation.

77. (New) The process as set forth in claim 73, further comprising:

sparging air into the solvent recovered tailings component to enable gas flotation of residual bitumen and residual solvent.

78. (New) The process as set forth in claim 72, comprising:

subjecting the solvent recovered tailings component to a combination of gravity separation and gas flotation to separately produce the overflow and underflow streams and a third stream comprising residual bitumen and residual solvent.

79. (New) The process as set forth in claim 72, wherein:

the diluted tailings component is subjected in series to separate first and second stages of solvent recovery separation so that each stage produces separate overflow and underflow streams of recovered solvent component and solvent recovered tailings component; and

a first part of the first stage underflow is pumped as feed to the second stage and a second part of the first stage underflow is pumped back to the first stage to agitate diluted tailings component undergoing separation in the first stage.

80. (New) The process as set forth in claim 73, wherein:

the diluted tailings component is subjected in series to separate first and second stages of solvent recovery separation so that each stage produces separate overflow and underflow streams of recovered solvent component and solvent recovered tailings component; and

a first part of the first stage underflow is pumped as feed to the second stage and a second part of the first stage underflow is pumped back to the first stage to agitate diluted tailings component undergoing separation in the first stage.

81. (New) The process as set forth in claim 73, further comprising:

recycling at least part of the clarified heated water to solvent recovery separation.

82. (New) The process as set forth in claim 74, further comprising:

recycling at least part of the clarified heated water to solvent recovery separation.

83. (New) The process as set forth in claim 75, further comprising:

recycling at least part of the clarified heated water to solvent recovery separation.

84. (New) The process as set forth in claim 74, further comprising:

sparging air into the solvent recovered tailings component to enable gas flotation of residual bitumen and residual solvent.

*Application No.: 10/822,507*

85. (New) The process as set forth in claim 75, further comprising:  
sparging air into the solvent recovered tailings component to enable gas flotation of  
residual bitumen and residual solvent.